

Fontainebleau that Napoleon appointed M. de Montalivet to be Minister of the Interior. The letters which we received from Paris at this period brought intelligence of the brilliant state of the capital during the winter of 1809, and especially of the splendor of the Imperial Court, where the Emperor's levees were attended by the Kings of Saxony, Bavaria, and Württemberg, all eager to evince their gratitude to the hero who had raised them to the sovereign rank.<sup>1</sup>

I was the first person in Hamburg who received intelligence of Napoleon's projected marriage with the Archduchess Maria Louisa. The news was brought to me from Vienna by two *estafettis*. It is impossible to describe the effect produced by the anticipation of this event throughout the north of Germany. From all parts the merchants received orders to buy Austrian stock, in which an extraordinary rise immediately took place. Napoleon's marriage with Maria Louisa was hailed with enthusiastic and general joy.<sup>2</sup> The event was regarded as the guaranty of a long peace, and it was hoped there would be a lasting cessation of the disasters created by the rivalry of France and Austria. The correspondence I received showed that these sentiments were general in the interior of France, and in different countries of

of annulling the marriage he had contracted with Josephine, who was present; the Empress also made the same declaration, which was interrupted by her repeated sobs. The Prince Arch-Chancellor having caused the article of the law to be read, he applied it to the case before him, and declared the marriage to be dissolved " (*Memoirs of the Emperor*).

<sup>1</sup> The Electorate of Bavaria had been raised to a Kingdom by, or rather in consequence of, the Treaty of Pressburg, 1797, after Austerlitz. The Duchy of Württemberg had been made an Electorate by the Recess of the Empire, 1801, on the re-settlement of Germany under the supervision of France and Russia. It was raised to a Kingdom at the same time as Bavaria, both Kings issuing their proclamations 1st January, 1806. The Electorate of Saxony was declared a Kingdom 11th December, 1806, on joining the Confederation of the Rhine. It is curious that those sovereigns all retained these titles given them by Napoleon, while he at St. Helena was denied any higher rank than that of General. The allies considered that there was nothing objectionable in any gifts received from Napoleon; it was only his own gains which were immoral.

<sup>2</sup> For the effect of the news of the marriage, see *Metier* *nick*, tome ii. p. 383. "Few things have ever obtained a more universal assent on the part of the real body of the (Austrian) nation." See also Beugnot (vol. i. pp. 826, 827), who was then governing the Grand Duchy of Berg. "A great change was immediately perceptible in the disposition of the Grand Duchy. . . . I observed the increase of those relations of confidence and of future connection which are only maintained with a Government of unquestioned stability."